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WEST CHESTER • LIBERTY PULSE-JOURNAL

Wednesday, April 18, 2001

1086 Reading Road, Mason, 45040 • Phone (513) 398-8856

Single copy 50 cents

Liberty buys land for fire house

By Perry Schellie

Pulse-Journal Reporter

Since its closure in 1990 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Skinner Landfill has been a source of controversy in West Chester Township.

Preparations have started this week to end the controversy over how to clean the toxic waste dumping site.

According to township officials, officials with the U.S. EPA met with them last week to let them know the clean-up is moving forward in the form of a cap that will be placed over the landfill.

After three years of searching, township trustees agreed to buy 6.4 acres of land at 6482 Princeton-Glencliff Road for \$625,000.

The land sits just north of the Michael A. Far Highway on the Turco Farm.

"We're aiming for fire houses in the four quadrants," said Liberty Township Trustee David Kern. "Because of growth in the township we need more fire houses."

With two fire houses in Liberty Township, trustees said they have been looking to add a third fire house in the area for some time.

"We need another fire house to improve response time," said Trustee Mary Condit.

According to Liberty Township Fire Chief Paul Stumpf, the fire house will be paid for by two fire levies that were passed by township residents in 1995 and 1996 both for 3-miles. He

Skinner Landfill to be capped

By Perry Schellie

Pulse-Journal Reporter

Township officials have received a contingency plan that will allow work to begin on the 18-acre landfill within the week.

West Chester Township Trustee Catherine Stoker said work by contractor Earth Tech, will begin by clearing the area of all shrubs, trees, and other materials. She said they will then shape the earth to accept the cap that will fit over the landfill.

The landfill, located a half mile south of the Interstate 75 and Cincinnati-Dayton Road intersection in West Chester Township, will be covered with an impermeable material that will stop water from coming through, Stoker said.

"It'll stop the infiltration of water, that's the purpose of the landfill cap," said Scott Hansen, the Remedial Project manager on the site for the U.S. EPA.

Hansen said the cap is made of a geo-synthetic clay liner, which Hansen described as a "clay material between two pieces of plastic." If the plastic cover is punctured, the clay will swell and cover the hole. The cap will then be covered by a plastic 60 millimeter liner, soil, and vegetation, Hansen said.

"I think it is the safest way to do this," Hansen said.

Stoker agrees. "It's the only way we know how to take care of this at this time because we

don't know of any safe way to clean it." She said the intent is to stabilize the site so there are no more emissions from it.

Originally, according to Hansen, the plan was to incinerate the site by digging it up and burning it, but the plan caused a public outcry because the site is across the street from Union Elementary School.

Hansen said the landfill, which is bordered on the south by the East Fork of Mill Creek, will consist of a "collection trench" near the creek that will collect ground water which will then go to the Butler County Public Works who will treat it and discharge it.

Stoker said she is happy with the clean-up efforts because the township has been assured they will be involved in the clean-up.

"The township is working with the contractor and the EPA... so we can assure the residents and community members in West Chester that at all times their health and safety is watched over," Stoker said.

There will be no cost to the township for clean-up. The estimated \$11 million cost will be paid by potentially responsible parties for the contamination. The group consists of 13 major companies with 43 additional companies and five municipalities paying smaller portions.

Egg-citing chase



Scott Hansen stands near the retention pond where a young boy almost drowned last week.

Man humbled by saving boy from vehicle